

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION-OPINION ARTICLE CLAIMS TRUDEAU VICTIM
OF CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

1. IN A SIGNED OPINION ARTICLE IN THE JULY 7 TORONTO STAR
ENTITLED "IS US ABOUT TO PULL RUG FROM UNDER OUR PM?"
JAMES LAXER, CHAIRMAN, POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPT, ATKINSON COLLEGE.
YORK UNIV., TORONTO, PROVIDES EXCERPTS FROM A LONGER
ARTICLE THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF CANADIAN
DIMENSION MAGAZINE.

2. AFTER SHORT COMMENTS ON US DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
CONCERNS AND ON THE RECENT WASHINGTON VISITS OF PRIME MINISTER
TRUDEA AND OPPOSITION LEADER CLARK, LAXER WRITES:

QUOTE IT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE CANADIAN AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP
THAT WHILE EACH OF THE LAST THREE CANADIAN PRIME MINISTERS
HAS COME TO OFFICE AS A PRO-AMERICAN ,
HE HAS COME TO SEE RELATIONS WITH THE US IN A NEGATIVE LIGHT
BY THE TIME HIS STAY IN OFFICE HAS NEARED ITS END. UNQUOTE

HE THEN COMMENTS ON DIEFENBAKER AND PEARSON'S EXPERIENCES AND
CONTINUES QUOTE TRUDEAU CAME TO OFFICE IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED
TO ANTI-NATIONALISM. HE RELISHED IN PUTTING DOWN BOTH
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QUEBEC NATIONALISTS AND ENGLISH-CANADIAN NATIONALISTS AS BACKWARD

PROVINCIALISTS.

NOW TRUDEAU FINDS HIMSELF THE POLITICAL VICTIM OF THE CANADIAN AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP. HE IS THOUGHT DOWN IN WASHINGTON TO BE TOO MUCH HIS OWN MAN. THE US LEADERSHIP WOULD PREFER SOMEONE LESS COMPLICATED AND MORE OBVIOUSLY RELIABLE.

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTERS ARE CAUGHT IN A CONTRADICTIONARY POSITION, MIDWAY BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE CANADIAN PEOPLE. THEY PRESIDE OVER A BRANCH-PLANT ECONOMY THAT IS CRUCIAL TO THE US. THEY HEAD A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS LONG SERVED AS A TRUSTED DIPLOMATIC SATRAP OF WASHINGTON. BUT THEY ALSO ARE LEADERS OF PARTIES THAT HAVE TO HOLD THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE TO RETAIN OFFICE.

TRUDEAU OFFENDS THE AMERICANS BECAUSE OF HIS SOCIAL ASPIRATIONS FOR CANADA. IT IS NOT WASHINGTON'S INSISTENCE ON COMPLETE MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SUBSERVIENCE THAT THREATENS HIMM INSTEAD IT IS THE DICTATES OF AMERICAN ECONOMIC POLICY.

TRUDEAU HAS TRIED TO MAINTAIN HIS POSITION AS AN ADVANCED KEYNESIAN IN ECONOMIC MATTERS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SEEKING TO MANAGE AN ECONOMY THAT HAS HUGE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH US. UNQUOTE

3. AFTER SOME OBSERVATIONS ON CANADIAN ECONOMY AND LIBERAL PARTY'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC GOALS, LAXER CONCLUDES QUOTE

TRUDEAU'S STRATEGY NOW IS ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER A NEW MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN DICTATES OF AMERICAN ECONOMY AND ASPIRATIONS OF CANADIAN PEOPLE. EVEN AS STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF CANADA'S BRANCH-PLANT ECONOMY WORSEN, PRIME MINISTER IS UNFOLDING LATEST EXTENSION OF LIBERAL SOCIAL LEGISLATION --A GUARANTEED INCOME PLAN.

THERE IS INCREASING EVIDENCE THAT WASHINGTON IS NOT INTERESTED IN EXERCISE. AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS FACE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. WHAT THEY WANT FROM CANADA ARE AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS TO TRADE PROBLEMS. FOR THEM, CANADA IS SIMPLY A PART OF SOLUTION TO AMERICAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS - A SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS, UNCLASSIFIED

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A HUGE MARKET FOR MANUFACTURED GOODS, AND A SOURCE OF CORPORATE PROFITS.

THEY CANNOT HELP BUT FIND THE SIMPLER FREE ENTERPRISE NOTIONS OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY MORE TO THEIR LIKING THAN COMPLEX STRATEGY OF CANADIAN LIBERALISM UNDER PIERRE TRUDEAU.

HAVING CONSERVATIVES IN OFFICE IN OTTAWA WOULDN'T REALLY SOLVE

AMERICAN PROBLEMS IN CANADA. IT MIGHT EVEN EXACERBATE THEM
BY REMOVING MEDIATION OF LIBERALS THAT NOW KEEPS WASHINGTON
AND CANADIAN PEOPLE OPERATING SMOOTHLY WITHIN ONE SYSTEM.
BYT AN AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION FACED WITH MANY MORE DRAMATIC
PROBLEMS CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH SUCH
SUBTLETIES. UNQUOTE.
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